



CALVERT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

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Board of Commissioners

Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Thomas E. Hutchins
Kelly D. McConkey
Steven R. Weems

MINUTES

August 4, 2021

Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonnie Barrett, Tony DeStefano, Lisa Height-Gross, Larry Jaworski, Gwyn Novak, Kevin Phillips, Carrie Polk, Stephen Riggin, Scott Russey

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Benton, Stacey Hann-Ruff*, Kasia Sweeney*

GUESTS PRESENT: Lisa Creason – Small Business Development Center, Belinda Denton – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, Angella Hunter – Soil Conservation

STAFF PRESENT: Danita Boonchaisri, Kathy MacAdams, Tammy Bowen

***Excused Absence**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m. by Scott Russey.

II. CALL FOR AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With a call for agenda revisions being made by Russey, and none being received, a **motion** was made by Tony DeStefano to approve the agenda as submitted. The **motion** was seconded by Carrie Polk, and carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 9, 2020, MEETING

On a **motion** by Larry Jaworski, seconded by Polk and carried, the minutes from the June 9, 2021, meeting were approved as submitted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee Recommendations

Bonnie Barrett reported the EDAC Nominating Committee met on Thursday, July 15, to discuss recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair. After discussing the slate of candidates who volunteered for these positions, the Nominating Committee made the following recommendations to the full EDAC for their consideration: Larry Jaworski to serve as Chair and Tony DeStefano to serve as Vice Chair. A **motion** was made by Stephen Riggin to appoint Larry Jaworski as Chair and Tony DeStefano as Vice Chair. The **motion** was seconded by Russey, and carried. (All in favor, none opposed.) Russey then turned the meeting over to Jaworski.

B. Presentation: Employment and Training Incentive Initiatives

Belinda Denton, Business Engagement and Development Manager at Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, gave a presentation on the Council's latest initiatives. She stated they had received a sizable sum of money from the American Rescue Act and these funds are being utilized to assist businesses and individuals who experienced a negative impact due to COVID. Specifically, funding is being used for training, apprenticeships and incentives. Businesses, especially those in the hospitality, restaurant and retail industries, are in dire need of employees. In an effort to assist, Tri-County Council is offering monetary incentives, on behalf of the businesses, to encourage people to fill these openings. Individuals would receive a stipend based on how long they remain on a job. Those that remain in a position for six months receive the largest amount. There was a mixed response by the business community as many business owners feel that individuals should not be rewarded just for coming to work. They also felt many would vacate their positions after receiving the incentive money. Other ideas for assisting businesses are in discussion but are still in the beginning stage.

C. Economic Development Job Fair

Danita Boonchaisri announced the Dept. of Economic Development will host an in-person Job Fair on Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021, at the Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. She noted 22 businesses had registered to date and efforts to persuade job seekers to attend include kicking off the event with radio personalities T-Bone and Heather, and offering a free ice cream cone from Mrs. Moo's Corner to those who visit at least three businesses.

D. Lunch and Learn Initiative

Tammy Bowen reported that Kathy MacAdams was working on a Lunch and Learn initiative at the Calvert Library for those wishing to learn about starting a business. These sessions were tentatively scheduled for the last four Thursdays in September from noon to 1:30 p.m. However, due to a recent mask mandate by the Calvert Library, these sessions may be held virtually. More details will be provided once a final decision is made.

E. October Meeting

Boonchaisri announced the October meeting is scheduled to be held in person on Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021, at 9 a.m. at Century 21 New Millennium in Prince Frederick.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Economic Development Strategic Plan

Boonchaisri reported on the status of the EDAC's Economic Development Strategic Plan. A Press Release was sent out seeking public comment. Three citizens responded with varying suggestions and recommendations. Boonchaisri requested that a small group of EDAC members meet and discuss the citizens' feedback to determine which recommendations should be incorporated into the final Strategic Plan. She asked that any EDAC member interested in participating to please let her know and a meeting would be set up in the very near future.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public attended and no comment was taken.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jaworski announced that Gerald Donovan of Chesapeake Beach had passed away the past weekend. The family will hold a private ceremony and plans to have a Celebration of Life in the future.
- Boonchaisri noted that retired commissioner Tim Hutchins had been replaced by Christopher Gadway. A retreat was held at Kings Landing Park with all senior Calvert County staff to inform Commissioner Gadway about current county projects and initiatives.
- Jaworski offered his gratitude to Scott Russey for his service as EDAC Chair.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next EDAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021, at Century 21 New Millennium, 862 Costley Way, Prince Frederick.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, a **motion** to adjourn was made DeStefano at 9:40 a.m. The **motion** was seconded by Polk, and carried.